



Puget Sound Partnership Update

February 2010

Action Area Reports

Salmon Recovery and Local Implementation Team

San Juan:

The San Juan Local Integrating Organization is currently under review by the treaty tribes and the process has begun to identify tribal participants on the Implementation Committee and the Oversight/Accountability Committee. Staff is developing a slightly revised process and structure to reflect tribal input. This will be presented to County Council as soon as tribes are completed with their review of the revisions.

Salmon Recovery: Partnership staff met with the salmon recovery Lead Entity staff and the Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT) to begin the local work on the San Juan salmon recovery adaptive management and monitoring effort. The local Technical Advisory Group has embraced this effort and work is underway.

Whatcom:

Salmon Recovery: The 3-year work plan update is underway, as well as efforts to more effectively use the Habitat Work Schedule. The salmon recovery community is actively supporting funding efforts through the Governor's capital budget.

ECONet: The local ECONet group is refocusing efforts to identify projects and strategies. They are currently accepting proposals for the ECONet grants.

Marine Resources Committee: The MRC held the State of the Marine Resources workshop and began development of their annual strategic plan.

Whidbey Basin (Skagit, Stillaguamish, Island, and Snohomish watersheds)

Puget Sound Partnership staff is advancing local integration discussions across the Whidbey Basin, first focusing on scale. Staff is working towards a series of meetings of representatives across the Basin between late March-June to make a decision on the scale. In addition to this work, the following is an update on the specific areas:

- **Skagit Watershed:** Skagit watershed is advancing their monitoring and adaptive management efforts as well as developing their three-year work plan and preparing for an upcoming Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) round. Staff is continuing to work with the Samish Clean Water Initiative to advance their program.

- **Stillaguamish Watershed:** The Stillaguamish is continuing to work to develop their three-year work plan and preparing for the upcoming Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Salmon Recovery Funding Board round.
- **Island Watershed:** The Island watershed is continuing work to develop their three-year work plan and preparing for the upcoming Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Salmon Recovery Funding Board round.
- **Snohomish Watershed:** The Snohomish watershed is continuing to work to develop their three-year work plan and preparing for the upcoming Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Salmon Recovery Funding Board round. Snohomish is advancing their monitoring and adaptive management work, coordinating with the Partnership.

North-Central Action Area Update

Staff continues to assist the West Sound Watersheds Council in their organizational structure (including re-establishing their Citizens Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group) and facilitate the process of identifying projects for salmon recovery. Establishing a clear operating structure will enable the Council to better make decisions regarding salmon and ecosystem recovery, with leadership roles defined. Options for structure should be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

Partnership staff continues to meet with members of the broader community in the North-Central Action Area to help secure broad support for salmon and ecosystem recovery efforts, linking actions taken by the community to those efforts that support the Action Agenda.

South Central Action Area (Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish, Green/Duwamish, and Puyallup/White watersheds)

- The South Central Action Area Caucus Group, serving as the local integrating group, is holding bimonthly meetings and continues to focus on advancing a process to identify local priorities for Action Agenda implementation by sequencing priority actions in the Action Agenda. This effort will identify local priorities to help direct new and existing resources, inform and coordinate local legislative agendas, and improve local coordination and integration of efforts to recover Puget Sound.
- Salmon recovery watershed groups are beginning their annual update to their three-year work plans, which document progress towards meeting local watershed recovery goals, including accomplishments from the prior year, shifts in implementation strategy, and anticipated future challenges. The update process incorporates newly identified or developed restoration and protection projects, and involves a local technical and citizen project review and ranking to

identify priorities for funding in the coming year. Watersheds' are also working to identify ready-to-go priority projects as part of developing a Sound-wide project list to demonstrate the need for additional restoration and protection funds and support the 2011-2013 biennial Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding request.

South Sound Action Area

The Partnership continues to support the South Sound area in its local integration efforts for implementation of the Action Agenda and the South Sound and Nisqually Watershed chapters of the Salmon Recovery Plan.

- The South Sound rescheduled its Tribal and County Elected Officials meeting for March 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Lacey Community Center. The meeting discussion will focus on the purpose, scope, and structure of a local implementation organization in the South Sound.
- The South Sound Salmon Recovery Group (SSSRG) met on February 25th. The group members worked out a timeline for developing the three-year work plan for implementing the South Sound chapter of the Salmon Recovery Plan. The group discussed the need to continue moving forward with developing a South Sound strategy for Salmon Recovery. The group also made progress on the formalization of a salmon recovery organization and discussed options for selecting a project of regional significance.
- Staff met with the RITT on February 18th to discuss options for developing guidance to address climate change impacts in our salmon recovery work across the Puget Sound. We will continue to work with the RITT to gather input from agencies and organizations exploring climate change impacts, and from the Salmon Recovery Council and Salmon Recovery Watershed Leads.

Hood Canal Action Area

Staff is still coming up to speed in the Hood Canal Action Area due to recent changes in personnel, engaging regularly in efforts by the HCCC to develop their integrated watershed plan and implement salmon recovery actions. In particular, HCCC staff connected with the Partnership staff to learn about and leverage each other's efforts on the Open Standards approach to conservation planning. Monthly check in meetings will take place to keep track of efforts as they evolve in each entity.

Staff also attended a Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 16 meeting to share what's happening at the Partnership and connect with local players in the lower Hood Canal. This was an effort to open up communication and help foster broad participation in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Integrated Watershed Plan development and implementation.

EPA Science grant proposals are due on March 2nd, and staff has offered written feedback to scientists applying from UW on how best to connect their proposal to the

Action Agenda. The proposal centers on the low dissolved oxygen work that has been done in Hood Canal.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Action Area Progress Report

Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network – Staff completed preparations for next set of meetings of the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network (Strait ERN) scheduled for February 26, 2010. Agenda highlights include:

- Local Integration Proposal – Discussion and, hopefully, approval of a final draft proposal for later review by ECB and consideration by Leadership Council; Completed update of High Priority Actions Matrix for Strait AA, a more detailed version of Profile table – work continues to prioritize individual project lists.
- EPA RFP Processes – Strait AA 2009 project proponent feedback and 2010 RFP preparations; overview to Jefferson Work Group of HCCC proposal.
- Strait ECO Net – Updates on local *Puget Sound Starts Here* campaign and North Olympic “Voices of the Strait” video project.
- Shoreline Master Program Updates – Updates on efforts in Clallam County, Port Angeles, and Sequim and policy feedback from Clallam Work Group membership; Plans for DOE review of Jefferson County SMP Update recently adopted by County Commissioners.
- Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response – Preparations for upcoming Northwest Area Committee meeting in March.
- Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan - Presentation on draft by Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Action Area Progress:

- Salmon Recovery Actions – Partnership staff will co-lead effort to develop a suite of salmon recovery actions for Port Angeles Harbor Recovery for possible inclusion in 2011 3-year work to be worked on later this year.
- Port Angeles Harbor Recovery – Staff met with Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to coordinate recovery activities with state agencies; broader collaboration meeting to be scheduled for May 2010.
- Strait ECO Net – Staff advising project team on development of a Partnership funded “Voices of the Strait” video.

Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Steering Committee – Staff working to complete a matrix of information on needed guidelines as part of 3-year work plan; Continuing to seek funding to complete or develop high priority guidelines.

U.S. Senate Energy and Public Works Committee testimony

David Dicks testified in Washington, D.C., before this committee on February 24 at the Joint Hearing on the Legislative Approaches to Protecting, Preserving and Restoring Great Water Bodies. In his testimony he supported the effort to make the Puget Sound Program Office permanent in the Environmental Protection Agency. He noted the extensive Federal land ownership and activity in the Puget Sound as an essential

element for EPA's Puget Sound role to be sustained at a high level, and that the new approach as described in S 2739 would provide the national attention and strong federal involvement that is needed while supporting the state's leadership and existing stakeholder effort. The testimony underscored the importance of putting the Federal government on a course to play a major supportive role in the restoration of Puget Sound, and is critical to our success. His testimony was very well received. We are hopeful for passage and inclusion as the lead program entity in the next few weeks.

The Senate hearing and his testimony can be seen at:

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Choose&Hearing_id=e7d557bc-802a-23ad-4643-288727715be8

Stormwater and Low Impact Development

The Stormwater Work Group, charged with developing the stormwater element of an overall ecosystem monitoring system, released a draft strategy in December and is now revising the draft based on public comment and peer review. Next the group has established several subgroups to write the implementation plan. A public workshop, the group's third, is scheduled for sometime in May (details to follow). The strategy and implementation plan is scheduled to be completed and delivered to the Partnership and Department of Ecology by early July 2010. Partnership staff are key participants in the group.

Developing and implementing low impact development (LID) incentives: Three of the biggest incentives are 1) quality, inexpensive training; 2) technical guidance; and 3) flow control credits. The Partnership is working with and funding WSU Extension to provide low-cost state of the art LID training workshops this February through April, and next year. All are sold out. Bioretention was held Feb 10-11; Pervious paving will be held March 3-4; LID buildings and foundations will be held March 16-17; and Site planning and erosion control will be held March 31-April 1. The Partnership also developed an agreement with and is funding WSU Extension to revise the LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound beginning this spring, update flow control credits for using LID techniques, and offer the new manual for free.

The Partnership is also currently surveying the 36 recipients of the LID Local Regulation Assistance Project (the free technical assistance to help local governments add LID to their codes); the survey report will be available in April. In addition, the Partnership is beginning a project to develop an innovative "how to" guidebook with model ordinances to help local government staff add LID to their codes. This should help local governments not only add LID to their codes, but also comply with new requirements in their stormwater permits (scheduled for 2012) that will require the use of LID in new and redevelopment projects, where LID is feasible.

Invasive Species

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife responded to an invasion of New Zealand mud snails in Olympia's Capitol Lake in November 2009. They are working with the Department of General Administration (GA) to test and evaluate various methods to kill the population in the lake. WDFW and GA plan to drain the lake and allow salt water to displace the freshwater, scheduled for early March 2010.

Saltwater "back flush" is intended to shock the snails to death. WDFW will evaluate the effectiveness of this shock treatment. The Partnership will provide about \$20,000 to WDFW towards this effort – consistent with the Partnership's Action Agenda near-term action to "Enhance and target existing capacity to respond to immediate invasive species risks." (Near-term action A5.4).

- New Zealand mud snails are one of the Washington Invasive Species Council's top 50 species of concern. They damage the food chain, can destroy fish habitat and can adapt and survive in a variety of environmental conditions including estuarine waters.
- Discovery of these animals in Capitol Lake in late 2009 is the first of its kind in the Puget Sound basin.
- Capitol Lake could serve as a source to inoculate the Deschutes River as well as other water bodies in the Puget Sound basin – threatening listed salmon and other indigenous fish species and their habitat.
- Action is needed to quickly control and kill these animals in the lake to stop them from spreading to other locations.

Performance Management/Accountability

Work continues to set ecosystem targets and threat reduction targets. In March, the Cross-Partnership Work Group, ECB and Leadership Council will discuss which ecosystem targets and threat reduction targets to set first. Staff is continuing to balance the desires for speed and extensive participation. This work needs input from several cross-Partnership work groups: Performance Management, Threats to the Ecosystem, and Implementation Strategies. We are holding joint meetings of these three groups to help guide the work and be efficient with time. Work group sessions have been scheduled.

Staff is continuing work with state agencies to set performance measures for the near-term actions funded in the 2009-11 biennium.

John Becker, the Partnership's Performance Manager started work in mid-February.

Science and Technical

The 2010 Science Update continues. *The Puget Sound Science Update* will be the state-of-the-science document supporting the work of the Puget Sound Partnership to restore and protect the Puget Sound ecosystem. The Partnership statute calls for the Update to be completed by April 2010. The work is on schedule to be completed on time. A Web page and FAQ have been developed to help explain the importance of the update,

process, and schedule. Author teams will convene on March 8 for a workshop to get input on the content of their sections from the science community in the Puget Sound region.”

The Partnership continues to staff up its science program. David Dicks completed interviews with Science Program Director candidates in February. Negotiations and an appointment announcement are anticipated in March.

National Estuary Program

The Puget Sound National Estuary Program is being reviewed this year. This tri-annual review covers work from July 2005-June 2009. Partnership staff has been working with EPA to prepare submittal documents for review.

Communications and Outreach

Partnership staff completed and submitted a proposal for EPA’s Puget Sound Education, Outreach and Stewardship grant, which could provide up to \$6 million over the next five years.

The Partnership is forming an unprecedented coalition with other state agencies, NGO’s, local governments and tribes to refine a vision and strategy for implementing a coordinated regional outreach program for Puget Sound recovery. The grant could significantly support this work. If the grant is awarded to the Partnership, a Steering Committee will be formed to help guide the work.

Rae McNally conducted a Social Media presentation at the end of January to Storming the Sound North, and another to the STORM Group in early February, both very well received.

Partnership staff has met with the state Department of Information Services in order to complete and implement the PartnerNet Investment plan required before an RFQ can be issued.

Budget and Contracts

The Partnership worked with the Recreation and Conservation Office on developing agreed upon areas where we can share services per the Governor’s direction for a consortium of back-office functions between the two agencies. Work was also undertaken to prepare PSP grant requests to EPA for FFY 2009. The Partnership also completed fiscal notes on proposed legislation impacting Puget Sound and facilitated necessary contracts and grants for the agency.

Cross Partnership Work Groups

The current activities of the five groups are:

- *Performance Management*: Continuing to assist staff with development of the overall Open Standards framework with a specific focus on making

recommendations for setting ecosystem and threat reduction targets and benchmarks.

As noted previously, in 2010, some meetings of this group are combined with the Threats to the Ecosystem Group and Implementation Strategies Group to more effectively develop targets. It is anticipated that such combined meetings could also be needed later in the year and in 2011 to discuss Action Agenda adaptation needs. Such work would include incorporation of the information in the Science Update.

- *Threats to the Ecosystem.* In early 2010, this group is meeting with the performance management group to advise on threat groupings and assist with the setting of threat reduction and ecosystem targets.
- *Implementation Strategies.* In early 2010, this group is also meeting to assist with the setting of threat reduction and ecosystem targets. Expertise from this group will help with the alignment of strategies and actions to help meet those targets.
- *Communications and Social Strategies.* This group did not meet in February.
- *Funding Strategies.* This group has not yet met.